

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 /009 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: NEA/INS:JELEADER

APPROVED BY: NEA/INS:DWBORN

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R 162158Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

S E C R E T STATE 226963

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE INFO DOD, CINCPAC, CINCUSNAVUR
FROM LONDON NOV. 14,

REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE:

S E C R E T LONDON 13317

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR

SUBJECT: SATELLITE TERMINAL AT DIEGO GARCIA

REF: (A) STATE 221996, (B) LONDON 13170

1. ON NOV 13 WE SPOKE AGAIN WITH JACKSON OF FCO ON
HMG PROGRESS IN PROCESSING APPLICATION FOR COMMUNICATIONS
LINK FROM DIEGO GARCIA TO INTELSAT. HE SAID THAT HMG
WISHES TO HELP US IN THE EFFORT BUT HAS NOT MADE DE-
CISION WHETHER TO MAKE REQUEST TO INTELSAT. ACTIVITY
TO DATE HAS CONSISTED OF URGENT INFORMATION GATHERING
SO THAT DECISION CAN BE MADE. THIS INCLUDES FINDING OUT
MODALITIES OF MAKING REQUEST, TECHNICAL PAMETERS IN-
VOLVED, ETC.

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2. IN THIS CONNECTION, JACKSON ASKED FOR ANSWERS TO

FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- A. HOW LONG WILL THE DIEGO GARCIA LINK TO INTEL SAT BE USED, I.E., WHAT PERIOD SHOULD UK ASK FOR FROM INTEL SAT BOARD?
- B. WHAT IS U.S. POSITION ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE SPIRIT OF INTEL SAT CONSTITUTION THAT IT WILL NOT BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES?
- C. HOW HAS U.S. OBTAINED PERMISSION FOR OTHER SIDE OF LINK, I.E., IS THERE A TERMINAL AT CINCPAC WITH AN APPROVED LINK TO INTEL SAT? IF SO, HOW WAS PERMISSION OBTAINED FOR THIS LINK?
- D. HOW DOES U.S. PROPOSE TO HANDLE POLITICAL PROBLEM POSED BY FACT THAT INTEL SAT BOARD HAS WIDE REPRESENTATION, INCLUDING ARAB REPRESENTATIVE, WHO MIGHT WELL OBJECT TO DIEGO GARCIA LINK IF IT IS SEEN AS BEING IN SUPPORT OF HANCOCK TASK GROUP OPERATIONS?

3. WE UNDERSTAND FROM TELECONS WITH DEPARTMENT THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID PRESENTING REQUEST TO FULL

INTEL SAT BOARD AND HAVE INFORMALLY REPORTED THIS TO HMG. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT.

4. COMMENT. HMG WISHES TO HELP US IN SETTING UP LINK BUT WILL BE CAUTIOUS IN SEEKING PERMISSION OF INTEL SAT BOARD IF THIS ACTION WILL RAISE LARGER POLITICAL QUESTIONS. ALL FCO OFFICERS AGREE THAT SATELLITE TERMINAL IS WITHIN SCOPE OF US/UK AGREEMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA AND DOES NOT, IN ITSELF, REQUIRE UK PERMISSION. BUT REQUIREMENT THAT UK TAKE A HIGHLY VISIBLE ACTION IN SEEKING PERMISSION FROM AN INTERNATIONAL BODY FOR THE TERMINAL CREATES OTHER PROBLEMS. HMG WILL CONSIDER EFFECT OF THIS ACTION ON DELICATE MIDDLE-EAST PROBLEMS AND ALSO ON UK RELATIONS WITH INDIA, SRI LANKA AND OTHER INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL NATIONS. THUS WE COULD USE EVEN MORE FULL JUSTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR TERMINAL THAN THAT CONTAINED IN REF (A) TO CONVINCE HMG OF REAL NEED FOR SATELLITE CAPABILITY. TECHNICAL DETAILS ON HOW LINK WILL OPERATE, HOW SATELLITE FITS IN WITH NORMAL NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS, WHAT WILL BE LOST

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IF LINK NOT ACHIEVED, ETC. WILL HELP IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FCO.

ANNENBERG

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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